

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Ivan Lankford, Council Vice President via Zoom
Eric Banks, Councilman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Ruthie Todd, Councilwoman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Rick Taylor, Chief of Police; Kate Cullotta; Jennifer Merritt; John Wunder; Jason Loar; Richard Crumbacker; Vincent Jackson and Attorney Chris Smith.

Invocation, Call to Order, Lord's Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular and Closed meetings. Of 9/13/2023 and the regular meeting of 10/11/2023. Motion seconded by Councilman Banks and carried unanimously.

Presentation – Waters Edge Community Shoreline – Shawn Day

Mr. Day, Water's Edge resident, presented and reviewed a power point concerning the shoreline deterioration at Water's Edge. He noted that the rip rap has deteriorated and he would like to submit a grant application to DNR and a letter of support from the City. He noted that the grant is due 12/15/2023.

Mr. Wunder noted that any shoreline work done there would need Critical Area review.

Mayor Taylor advised that she would put Mr. Day in contact with Mrs. Tracey Green Taylor.

After further discussion, Councilman Banks made a motion to authorize the City to do a support letter, once all of the necessary paperwork was in order. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

BRIC Grant – Mrs. Merritt

Mrs. Merritt reviewed information for grant applications to MDEM, due November 6, 2023. She noted that applications are submitted with the identical grant to both FEMA's BRIC program and FMA Program.

Mrs. Merritt noted that we will be requesting Phase I- Southern Flood Mitigation, including 6 tide gates. She advised that this is a phased project and proof of the concept.

After a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed project, Council Vice President Lankford made a motion to submit the grant application for Phase I. Motion seconded by Councilman Banks and carried unanimously.

Councilman Goldsborough noted that it will take 4 years to start the project, so we need to start implementing the flood gate project. Mrs. Merritt advised that FEMA will assist with this project. Mayor Taylor noted that we cannot wait until 2026; we have to get some things done now.

Recommendation for the bid for the S/E Pier Replacement at City Dock– Jason Loar, Davis, Bowen and Friedel

Mr. Loar noted that he received two bids for the S/E Pier and recommends Murtech in the amount of \$163,750 with a 75 day contract.

Councilman Banks inquired if they will tie into the future plans at the depot of raising the dock. Mr. Loar advised that they would.

At this time, Councilman Banks made a motion to accept the bid of Murtech. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Davis Bowen & Friedel Project Updates – Jason Loar

- 1) Isolation Valves – Final valves will be installed tomorrow, then a test plan will be scheduled. Mr. Wunder added that streets will be closed tomorrow to finish up installation, beginning at 7:00 a.m. Councilman Goldsborough suggested that citizens be notified which streets will be affected.
- 2) I & I Project – lines to be rehabbed by the end of November.
- 3) 36 Sewer Rehab – Continue lining end of November to January. Mayor Taylor commented that we are still getting inflow. Mr. Loar advised that it should be better once the lining is finished.
- 4) Cove Street & Rubberset Pump -paperwork is 99% complete. Mr. Loar advised that the MDE project Engineer has it in his hand and once approved it will go out to bid immediately.]
- 5) Jersey Island pump station – working on the Coastal Smart report and the preliminary engineering report.
- 6) Armory – Structural rehab – roof, liner and coating

Department Head Reports;

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Mrs. Morgan presented that quarterly report for the new fiscal year. Councilwoman Johnson inquired about the wind turbine productivity. Mrs. Morgan noted that it was down three weeks in August. Mrs. Morgan also noted the expense for the Hill's Pump repair.

Councilman Goldsborough inquired about the HUR funds amount of \$200K to be increasing each year. Mayor Taylor advised that this can be used to pave roads.

Councilwoman Todd made reference to the USDA expenditure. Mrs. Morgan advised that this was the match for one police vehicle; the cost was too high to get two vehicles.

Rick Taylor, Chief of Police

Chief Taylor reviewed his quarterly report beginning July 8, 2023, highlighting various information. In reference to juvenile crime, he noted that ages 9 and younger cannot be charged with a crime, ages 9-12 can be charged with a violent crime, but not a misdemeanor, ages 13-17 a misdemeanor for a violent crime.

John Wunder, Public Works Director & Airport Manager

Mr. Wunder highlighted various areas of his report, noting that Schultz Lawn care had cut back mowing on his own, we are checking on a new vendor for the military banners, asphalt repair will be done by Jo Ellen Pruitt, Isolation valves will be finished up, and roads will be cold patched.

He noted that Arthur Whittington had been hired as a new public works employee, and also highlighted other areas of his report.

He advised that street sweeping had been done bi-monthly. Mayor Taylor noted that she wants to do a city wide clean up project.

Councilwoman Todd made reference to grass from mowing on top of storm drains. Mr. Wunder advised that theses would be cleaned this week.

Mr. Vincent Jackson inquired about the isolation valve project. Mr. Wunder advised that this is to prevent having to shut off water to the entire city when repairing a leak in various locations.

Mr. Jackson commented about the 12" line on Hall Highway. Mr. Loar advised that he would need to look at it.

Mr. Jackson commended the City for the valve installation.

D. J. Parkinson, Jr., Superintendent of Public Utilities

Report highlighted by Mr. Wunder

Upcoming City Events – Mayor Taylor

Trunk Or Treat – Saturday October 28th 3-5 p.m., Halloween Tuesday, October 31st 4:30 to 7:30– Trick or Treat hours, 16th Century Tall Ship visiting Crisfield at Somers Cove Marina – November 6th through 20th (details forthcoming)

Councilman Goldsborough also noted that there will be a haunted drive through at the Marina this Friday and Saturday from 7:30 to 9:30.

Economic Development Week Proclamation

Mayor Taylor noted that Mr. Alrey was in attendance at the MEDA Conference and read the proclamation aloud.

Mayor Taylor noted that there will be two meetings in November, the second one on the 29th.

Public Input

Mr. Shawn Day commented about accountability concerning youth arrests.

Council Comments

Councilwoman Todd noted that the Student City Council Members will be in attendance on November 8th.

Councilman Goldsborough thanked everyone for the presentations, noting that it was good to see Mr. Loar. He also inquired about a schedule for street sweeping. Mr. Wunder advised that it will be available.

Councilman Banks thanked the department heads for their reports.

Councilwoman Johnson thanked all employees for their hard work. She gave a special thank you to Landon's Flowers for the Breast Cancer ribbons.

Council Vice President Lankford thanked everyone for their hard work.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Jackson for his comments at the meeting. She thanked Mr. Day for the Water's Edge presentation. She also thanked Attorney Chris Smith for filling in for Mr. Illuminati. Mayor Taylor also thanked Ms. Culotta for the fine job she is doing as IT for the meetings, as well as all of the City employees.

Adjournment

With no further business for discussion, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Banks and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, - Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary